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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Director of Intelligence  
24 June 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report  
(As of 4:30 p.m. EDT)

1. With attention at the UN increasingly focused on the summit talks between President Johnson and Premier Kosygin, efforts continue behind the scenes to frame alternative resolutions to the US and Soviet drafts. The Arabs [redacted] have agreed to maintain their support for the Soviet resolution and not to indicate any willingness to consider a resolution which omits "condemnation."

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2. The Ethiopian ambassador to the UN, suggested to the US mission that what was needed now was a resolution "supporting the principle of withdrawal" followed by mention of the other elements necessary to a solution of the basic Middle East problems, which should be referred to the Security Council. Mexico, on the other hand, is working on a "comprehensive" draft including a call for mutual recognition of sovereignty, existence, political independence and territorial integrity; negotiations; and withdrawal of Israeli forces to 4 June positions. The resolution would further recommend that the Security Council deal with freedom of navigation in Suez and the Gulf, the refugee problem on the basis of compensation or resettlement, agreement on arms limitations, creation of a separate body status for Jerusalem, and a UN presence. The Italian ambassador indicated he was still planning to work out his own draft.

3. The Vatican is meanwhile seeking "broad geographical sponsorship" for a resolution establishing UN administration over the old city of Jerusalem.

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4. The Israeli ambassador to the US told Under Secretary Rostow on 22 June that the Latin American representatives were a principal key to the outcome in the Assembly. He said Israel was "slightly encouraged" about the Latin American positions. Various reports from Latin American capitals indicate that, in general, the Latins favor a solution involving guarantees for Israel along with withdrawal.

5. A reading on the line-up of sub-Saharan African states was given to Ambassador Harriman by the Ivory Coast Foreign Minister on 22 June. He said that five or six countries, including Guinea, Mali, Tanzania, and Somalia, were committed to the Arabs. The others favored a neutral position, and the five-state "Entente" group within OCAM has decided not to vote for any condemnation of Israel.

6. UK Foreign Office has reacted negatively to the President's "surprise" proposal of 19 June that UN members report on all military arms shipments to the Middle East. The head of the Foreign Office's Eastern Department Morris, told the US embassy that whereas the US is not scheduled to supply significant amounts of hardware in the next few months, the UK is. If the Soviets and the French appear to go along with the US proposal and then in fact ignore the obligation to report fully, the UK would be left "holding the bag." Morris also defended the strong UK position on Jerusalem, noting that the moderate Arab regimes are sorely in need of some "easily comprehensible evidence of US-UK 'evenhandedness'" and that Israel could be dissuaded from "unconditional annexation" only if the US, UK, and others now took a strong line.

7. The US embassy notes that although the British remain on the same general wavelength as the US, the UK is now somewhat keener in looking out for its own Middle East interest--mainly commercial--than a month ago. This shift, the embassy believes, is part of the government's tactic, in connection with its EEC application, of accenting its disassociation from US positions.

8. The embassy notes that the initial shock and anger felt by many Frenchmen at De Gaulle's 21 June statements

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are now giving way to embarrassment that De Gaulle has put France in such an untenable diplomatic position. De Gaulle's isolation from the country's leaders--including his own supporters--is becoming increasingly evident. There is no mechanism which allows Gaullist supporters to persist in disagreement with the General on a major question and still remain Gaullists.

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10. Although De Gaulle's attitude has found favor in some of the Arab countries, Tunisian Prime Minister Bourguiba told Ambassador Harriman that De Gaulle is no longer a possible mediator because of his press conference statement. Bourguiba thought Italian Foreign Minister Fanfani might fill such a role.

11. Regret over the lack of a "European" voice in the Middle East situation, meanwhile, has been expressed by opposition leaders in France, by Chancellor Kiesinger in Bonn and the parliamentarians of the Six assembled in Strasbourg for a meeting of the European Parliament.

12. Soviet President Podgorny left by plane to return to Moscow [REDACTED]

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13. The press statement released in Cairo after Podgorny's departure was uninformative, containing only generalities about exchanging views, strengthening relations, etc.

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16. The American Embassy in Jordan with only preliminary information in hand, is beginning to hear of a mood of dissatisfaction within the ranks of the Jordanian army and among some junior grade officers. The Embassy, however, does not believe it has crystallized either into firm demands for any specific changes in the army command or, much less, into a movement to overthrow the existing regime. The war was a frustrating one in which few organized battles were fought, and some criticism is being directed at some middle and senior grade officers who performed particularly poorly during the conflict. The army is also having to undergo a humiliating reorganization with the remnants of the equipment left after their hasty withdrawal from the West Bank. King Husayn, however, so far seems to be untouched by the criticism, and appears to have maintained his new popularity first won by his recent trip to Cairo, and later reinforced in the initial swelling of national pride based on early reports of the Jordanian Army's performance.

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18. The veteran Mapai leadership is taking steps to frustrate the attempt by the Rafi Party to take over control of the Israeli government by forcing a merger with Mapai. To offset gains made among young Mapai members by Rafi, the party of the Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, the Mapai "old guard" headed by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol is trying to consummate a long-discussed merger with another member of the coalition government, the Ahdut Avedah Party. Ahdut Avedah is reportedly considering a merger with another coalition member, the Mapam Party, and it is possible that all three parties might combine to resist the Rafi threat.

19. The mission of the International Committee of Red Cross Societies (ICRC) in Israel is continuing to encounter an attitude of non-cooperation on the part of Israeli officials in attempting to organize aid for West Bankers. According to the American Consul in Jerusalem, two ICRC representatives in Israel told them they are being denied permission to travel to the West Bank area more than once, and have gotten no cooperation from the Israelis in attempts to establish an office in the old city of Jerusalem. The ICRC staffers claim that the Israelis resent the failure of Magen David, the official Israeli agency corresponding to the Red Cross, to be accepted for the past 19 years and want it to carry on all Red Cross type activities on the West Bank.

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21. The Soviet airlift to Arab countries resumed today.

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No information is available on the cargo carried by these transports.

22. The Soviet freighter Nikolay Pirogov, which [REDACTED] may be en route to a Middle Eastern port--possibly with a military cargo. No additional Soviet arms carriers have been noted en route to the Middle East.

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